

**BELMONT COUNCIL ON AGING  
MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 5, 2007**

**PRESENT:** J. Semuels, J. Kantor, E. Hamann, N. Niv-Vogel, H. Kazarian, B. Miranda, J. Horner, C. Hegarty, A. Verilli, P. Solomon, J. Bruschi, H. Dvorak

**ABSENT:** A. Lougee

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by J. Semuels, Chair.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the October 1, 2007 meeting were amended to indicate that N. Hegarty and E. Hamann were present. Absent were P. Solomon, J. Horner and A. Lougee. Announcements – line 5 was revised to ‘provide a grant for upgrading accessibility of each handicapped resident’s apartment and the buildings themselves.’

**SENIOR CITIZEN CONCERNS:** A visitor to Sherman Gardens wrote of safety and cleaning concerns. Residents should not be responsible for cleaning. Halls should not be cluttered with area rugs, etc. as they are a tripping/safety issue. A. Verilli will look into these issues.

**SPRINGWELL:** Mike Festa is the new Secretary of Elder Affairs. Reorganizing and new appointments are expected. Springwell’s 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 11/14 at 3:30-5:30 P.M.. All are welcome. Springwell financial status is very good. Their audit is complete.

**DIRECTOR:** Budget draft is completed including level figures, 10% increase figures and 10% reduction figures. During the week of 11/19 it will be reviewed with the town administrator and accounting staff. It will then go to Warrant sub-committee. Board of Selectmen hearings will be held in January. The budget should be voted on at the Annual Town Meeting will in April.

A motion was moved and passed that the Board regards a 10% reduction to be very harmful to the seniors of Belmont.

N. Niv-Vogel attended a working group on transportation. It would be difficult to arrange a regional transportation solution when towns have different priorities. Alternative sources of transportation become more needed as backup as seniors become less able to drive, become impaired, and have accidents. This point was underscored by a special program on dementia and driving she attended, sponsored by the M.I.T. AgeLab.

Emily Schmick, Boston College social work intern, is working on the Senior Services Directory and the Emergency Preparedness Plan.

**SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE:** C. Hegarty reported that the building will go out to bid on November 14. Bids are due back from the contractors on December 12.

**FRIENDS OF COA:** James Staton is the new president. New members are Anne Allen, Kusum Jain and Karen Nichols.

The meat raffle will be held Wednesday, November 7, at the Senior Center.

Fundraising will begin again after the new Senior Center groundbreaking.

**PRESS COVERAGE:** There seem to be issues in terms of what news about seniors have been covered in the local paper. B. Miranda suggested meeting with the editor to resolve the issues. N. Niv-Vogel will arrange for this. J. Semuels volunteered to attend such a meeting together with the president of the Friends.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Hildy Dvorak